

**24 – 05 – 2022**

**News:** World Bee Day

## **World Bee Day**

- World Bee Day is **celebrated annually on 20<sup>th</sup> May**.
- World Bee Day marks the **birth anniversary of Anton Janša, a pioneer of modern apiculture**.
- Anton Janša hailed from a family of beekeepers in Slovenia, where beekeeping is an important agricultural activity with a long-standing tradition.
- Anton enrolled in the first bee-keeping school in Europe and worked full-time as a beekeeper.
- His book '**Discussion on Bee-keeping**' was also published in German.
- Theme for 2022 is “**Bee Engaged: Celebrating the diversity of bees and beekeeping systems**”.

### **Significance of Beekeeping**

#### **Most Important Pollinators**

- Bees are some of the **most important pollinators, ensuring food and food security, sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity**.

## **Contribute to the Mitigation of Climate Change**

- Bees significantly contribute to the mitigation of climate change and the conservation of the environment.
- In the long-term, the protection of bees and the beekeeping sector can help reduce poverty and hunger, as well as preserve a healthy environment and biodiversity.

## **Sustainable Agriculture and Creating Rural Jobs**

- Beekeeping is also important in terms of sustainable agriculture and creating rural jobs.
- By pollinating, they increase agricultural production, thus maintaining diversity and variety in the fields.
- In addition, they provide millions of people with jobs and are an important source of farmers' income.

## **Achieving India's Target of Doubling Farmers Income**

- As per Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) database, in 2017-18, India ranked eighth in the world in terms of honey production (64.9 thousand tonnes) while China stood first with a production level of 551 thousand tonnes.

- Further, beekeeping can be an important contributor in achieving the 2022 target of doubling farmer incomes.

### **Status of the Apiculture in India**

- The globally apiculture market is estimated to register a **Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 4.3%** during the period 2020–25, with Asia–Pacific as the dominant producer.
- The Indian apiculture market size is expected to reach a value of Rs 33,128 million by 2024, expanding at a CAGR of nearly 12% by 2024.
- **India is the sixth major natural honey exporting country.**
- During 2019–20, the **recorded export of natural honey was 59,536.75 MT for Rs 633.82 crore.** The major export destinations were the USA, Saudi Arab, Canada, and Qatar.
- The **demand for organic honey in the international market could be leveraged** for promoting organic beekeeping guidelines.
- For propagating the sector, the landscape for beekeeping and the species could be expanded on a commercial scale.

## **Related Initiatives**

### **Sweet Revolution**

- It is an **ambitious initiative of the Government of India for promoting apiculture**, popularly known as 'beekeeping'.
- To provide a booster shot to Sweet Revolution, the government launched the **National Beekeeping and Honey Mission in 2020** (under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare).
- National Beekeeping and Honey Mission **aims to establish 5 big regional and 100 small honey and other Bee Products testing laboratories**.
- Out of the total target, 3 world class state-of-the-art laboratories have been setup, whereas 25 small laboratories are in the process of being set up.

### **Assistance for Setting up of Processing Units**

- India is also providing **assistance to the beekeepers for setting up of Processing Units**.
- **More than 1.25 lakh metric tonnes of honey is being produced in the country**, out of which more than 60 thousand metric tonnes of natural honey is exported.

## Adopting Scientific Techniques

- In order to bring qualitative upgradation of domestic honey to attract the world market, the Government of India and the State Governments are making concerted efforts and focusing on capacity building of beekeepers for production of honey by adopting scientific techniques.

## Bee

- There are almost 20,000 different species of bees in the world.
- Bees live in colonies and in each colony; there are three types of bees, the queen bee, the worker bee, and the drone.
- The worker and the queen bee both are females, but only the queen bee can reproduce. All drones are male.
- The worker bees clean the hive, collect pollen and nectar to feed the colony and take care of the offspring. The drone only mates with the queen bee.
- India is home to four of the seven known bee species.
- Two of these are domesticated, *Apis cerana* (oriental honey bee) and *Apis mellifera* (European honey bee), and the other two are wild, *Apis dorsata* (giant/rock honey bee) and *Apis florea* (dwarf honey bee).

**News:** Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- Recently, Finance Minister participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Day commemoration of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

## **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**

- Competition Commission of India (CCI) was set up under the provision of Competition Act, 2002.
- CCI was first constituted in 2009.
- CCI aims to establish a robust competitive environment.
- Members are to be **appointed by Central Government**.
- It is under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.
- Chairperson, 3 Members and the members shall be a person of ability, integrity and standing who, has been or is qualified to be a **Judge of High Court** and having not less than 15 years of professional experience in industrial matters.
- CCI launched **green channel route in August 2019 to improve Ease of Doing Business**.
- The **'Green Channel'** would allow automatic approval for certain M&A agreements based on specified criteria and pre-filing consultation.

**News:** New Development Bank (NDB)

- Recently, the Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs and India's Governor for the New Development Bank (NDB) chaired the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of NDB (New Development Bank).

## **New Development Bank**

- New Development Bank is **headquartered in Shanghai**.
- At the Fourth BRICS Summit in New Delhi (2012) the possibility of setting up a new Development Bank was considered **to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development** projects in BRICS and other emerging economies, as well as in developing countries.
- During the Sixth BRICS Summit in **Fortaleza (2014) the leaders signed the Agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB)**.
- Fortaleza Declaration stressed that the **NDB will strengthen cooperation among BRICS and will supplement the efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global development** thus contributing to sustainable and balanced growth.
- In 2018, the **NDB received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly**, establishing a firm basis for active and fruitful cooperation with the UN.

- The NDB's credit rating is AA+, one short of the maximum, which other development banks such as AIIB have. This is despite many of its members, notably Brazil and South Africa, facing tough economic times domestically.
- NDB's key areas of operation are clean energy, transport infrastructure, irrigation, sustainable urban development and economic cooperation among the member countries.
- The NDB functions on a consultative mechanism among the BRICS members with all the member countries possessing equal rights.
- Unlike the World Bank, which assigns votes based on capital share, in the New Development Bank each participant country will be assigned one vote and none of the countries will have veto power.
- The first president of the Bank was from India and the first regional office of NDB was set up in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Bank's Articles of Agreement specify that all members of the United Nations could be members of the bank however the share of the BRICS nations can never be less than 55% of voting power.
- Recently, Egypt has joined the BRICS New Development Bank as its member.
- Earlier, Bangladesh, UAE and Uruguay have joined in September 2021.



## Major Projects funded by NDB in India

- It has committed funding to a number of major infrastructure projects in India, including the Mumbai Metro rail, Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System and many Renewable Energy projects.
- The NDB has so far approved 14 Indian projects for an amount of nearly USD 4.2 billion.
- In 2020, India announced a 1 billion USD loan pact with NDB to boost rural employment and infrastructure.

## BRICS

- BRICS is the economic grouping of five major emerging national economies. Its members are Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- Population: 3.1 billion people (41% of world population).
- Combined GDP- US \$18.6 trillion (32% of World GDP).
- Recently, BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan that will strengthen counter terror cooperation among the members of the grouping has been finalised.
- The discussion in this regard was held at the sixth meeting of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group held on July 2021.
- The plan is one of the key deliverables during India's Chairmanship of BRICS.

## Structure

- BRICS **does not exist in form of organization**, but it is an annual summit between the supreme leaders of five nations.
- The **Chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually** among the members, in accordance with the acronym B-R-I-C-S.
- BRICS cooperation in the past decade has expanded to include an annual programme of over 100 sectoral meetings.

## Objectives

- The BRICS seeks to **deepen, broaden and intensify cooperation within the grouping** and among the individual countries for more sustainable, equitable and mutually beneficial development.
- BRICS takes into **consideration each member's growth, development and poverty objectives** to ensure relations are built on the respective country's economic strengths and to avoid competition where possible.
- BRICS is **emerging as a new and promising political-diplomatic entity with diverse objectives**, far beyond the original objective of reforming global financial institutions.

# Areas of Cooperation

## Economic Cooperation

- There are **rapidly growing trade and investment** flows between BRICS countries as well as economic cooperation activities across a range of sectors.
- Agreements have been concluded in the areas of Economic and Trade Cooperation; Innovation Cooperation, Customs Cooperation; strategic cooperation between the BRICS Business Council , **Contingent Reserve Agreement** and the **New Development Bank**.
- These agreements contribute to **realization of the shared objectives** of deepening economic cooperation and fostering integrated trade and investment markets.

## People-to-People exchange

- BRICS members have recognized the need for **strengthening People-to-People exchanges** and to foster closer cooperation in the areas of culture, sport, education, film and youth.
- People-to-People exchanges seek to forge new friendships; deepen relations and mutual understanding between BRICS peoples in the spirit of openness, inclusiveness, diversity and mutual learning.

- Such People to people exchanges include the Young Diplomats Forum, Parliamentarian Forum, Trade Union Forum, Civil BRICS as well as the Media Forum.

### **Political and Security Cooperation**

- BRICS member political and security cooperation is aimed **at achieving peace, security, development and cooperation for a more equitable and fair world.**
- BRICS provides opportunities for **sharing policy advice and exchanges of best practices in terms of domestic and regional challenges** as well as advancing the **restructuring of the global political architecture** so that it is more balanced, resting on the pillar of multilateralism.
- BRICS is utilized as a driver for South Africa's foreign policy priorities including the pursuit of the African Agenda and South-South Cooperation.

### **Cooperation Mechanism**

Cooperation among members is achieved through:

- Track I: Formal diplomatic engagement between the national governments.
- Track II: Engagement through government-affiliated institutions, e.g. state-owned enterprises and business councils.
- Track III: Civil society and People-to-People engagement.

## Importance for India

- India can benefit from collective strength of BRICS by way of consultation and cooperation on economic issues of mutual interests, as well as topical global issues, such as, international terrorism, climate change, food and energy security, reforms of global governance institutions, etc.
- India remains engaged with the other BRICS countries (except China) on its NSG membership.
- The NDB will help India to raise and avail resources for their infrastructure and sustainable development projects. The NDB has approved its first set of loans, which included a loan of US\$ 250 million in respect of India for Multi tranche Financing Facility for Renewable Energy Financing Scheme’.
- India assumed the chair of BRICS in 2021. Theme for India's chairmanship is "BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consciousness in context of promotion of BRICS cultural cooperation".
- Recently, BRICS adopted the "New Delhi Statement on Environment", which is also aimed at furthering the spirit of Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus in Environment among the BRICS Nations.
- The key areas proposed in the BRICS Environment Ministers’ Statement, 2021 are guided by the issues, which may have primacy in COP 15 and COP 26.

- Recently, on the summit hosted by India in its presidency, BRICS nations adopted the **New Delhi Declaration**, called for addressing the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, and urged the need to uphold rights of women, children and minorities.